

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 71647

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : BEDERKE
PCT No. : PCT/EP03/04162
For : COUPLING PIECE...
Dated : February 2, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following references have been brought to the Applicant's attention and Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the references as follows.

The following references and their U.S. equivalents, if any, have been cited in the corresponding German Patent. A cover of the issued Letters Patent for the German Patent is also enclosed.

- DE 101 05 785 A1 discloses a device for locking one container above the other container in an arrangement in a ship, including a first clutch section brought with a lower angle fitting of an upper container to interact with a second clutch section brought with an upper angle fitting with an element which prevents an installed condition of a swiveling of the connecting devices in lower angle with a locking condition in which the second clutch stands firmly in the installed condition with the upper angle. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Applicant at this time. However, Applicant encloses an Internet machine translation of a portion of the description.

- DE 100 23 436 A1 discloses a method involving raising an upper container suspended from a spreader from a lower container after releasing intermediate coupling unit between the upper and lower containers. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Applicant at this time. However, Applicant encloses an English abstract of the reference.

- DE 100 04 359 A1 discloses a hooking fitting device holding a lashing rod in the corner fitting of a container where the fitting has a finger which fits in an eye of the corner fitting, more precisely in a gap between the hooking projection of a connecting fitting for two containers, one above the other. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Application at this time. However, an English abstract page is also enclosed.

- DE 43 07 781 discloses a coupling with a threaded bolt which is turnably held in a passage of a housing. The cross bolts are located asymmetrically, outside the housing. The cross bolts are moved relative to a corner fitting of the container, between a locking and a release position. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Application at this time. However, an English abstract is also enclosed.

- DE 33 30 067 A1 discloses a positioning cone for positioning containers stacked one up on top of another on a ship or the like and engaging the containers without the need of turning a separate external lever to save time required to clamp the containers to one another and insure secure and accurate positioning of the cooperative latch and the locking pin. A locking catch 9 is disclosed as well as the container with a longitudinal direction. The U.S. Patent No. 4,564,984 is the corresponding U.S. document for this reference. This reference

is in German and Applicant also encloses an English abstract of the German reference.

- DE 298 11 460 U1 discloses the connection of two containers stacked one on top of each other with long holes including angle fittings, in particular for use within the range between the essential joint of each other with angle fittings. The device exhibits a locking functionality to the long hole of the angle fittings of the containers to join each other in the opposite direction before the clutching up. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Applicant at this time. However, Applicant attaches an Internet machine translation of the claim 1 of this reference.

- DE 296 17 029 U1 discloses a self locking liaison vehicle to connect two neighboring containers within the range of corners of bolting device openings behind a housing including two bolting device heads where an upper bolting head runs diagonally opposite one another. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Applicant at this time. However, an Internet machine translation of the first claim is also enclosed.

- WO 01/76980 A1 discloses a self locking and releasing connector for connection of two components, at least one of which comprises a hole for partial introduction of the connector group and which is preferably a corner fitting on a sea freight container. This reference is in German and there is no English translation available to Applicant at this time. However, this reference corresponds to the U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164375 A1 and Applicant also attaches an English abstract.

Applicant also requests that the Examiner consider a reference document entitled "Fully Automatic Lock T-4". This FAT T-4 (FAT equals fully automatic twist lock) discloses a fully

automatic locking twist lock.

Applicant also requests that the Examiner consider the U.S. Patent No. 6,533,511 B1 to deKoning which has been cited in a corresponding Indian Application.

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the following references which have been cited in an International Search Report which the Applicant has received from the counterpart application in Europe.

- Patent Abstracts of Japan has been cited in the corresponding International Search Report under Category X with regards to the International claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 14, and 15 and under Category A with regards to the International claims 17 - 20. The reference discloses a spacer member having square holes and provided with a pair of upper inserting of the shafts and a pair of lower inserting shafts formed on the upper and lower surfaces thereof between the square holes. This reference is in Japanese and there is no English translation available to Applicant at this time. However, an English abstract is enclosed along with this Japanese reference.

- U.S. Patent 6,490,766 B1 has been cited in the corresponding International Search Report under Category P and X with regard to the International claims 1, 12 and 14 - 16.

- WO 03/053736 A has been cited in the corresponding International Search Report under Category E with regards to the claim 1 and also cited under Category P and X. The reference discloses an arrangement for a cargo support for trailers comprising a connecting means for detachable attachment of the cargo support to a cargo vehicle and a trailer. This reference is in English.

- DE 101 05 785 A has been cited in the corresponding International Search Report under Category A. This reference has been discussed above.

- DE 43 07 781 A has been cited in the corresponding International Search Report under Category A. This reference has been discussed above.

- DE 298 11 460 U has been cited in the corresponding International Search Report under Category A. This reference has been discussed above.

Applicant also encloses a copy of the International Search Report as discussed in the above paragraphs.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: _____

John James McGlew

Registration No. 31,903

McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM/DWK:tf

71647.5

Enclosed: PTO-1449 Form
International Search Report
First Page of the Issued Letters Patent for DE 102 38 895 B4
copies of (11) References

DATED: February 2, 2005
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, NO.: EV436438749US

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BY: *Josephine J. Jorde* DATE: February 2, 2005

Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce Sheet 1 of 2
Patent and Trademark Office

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty Docket No.: 71647
PCT No.: PCT/EP03/04162
Applicant: BEDERKE

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ex- aminer Initial | Document No. | Date | Name | Class | class | Sub- Filing Date |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| | <u>4,564,984</u> | <u>Jan. 21, 1986</u> | <u>Takaguchi</u> | | | <u>Aug. 10, 1983</u> |
| | <u>2003/0164375 A1</u> | <u>Sept. 4, 2003</u> | <u>Neufingerl</u> | | | <u>April 6, 2001</u> |
| | <u>6,533,511</u> | <u>March 18, 2003</u> | <u>deKoning</u> | | | <u>Dec. 1, 2000</u> |
| | <u>6,490,766 B1</u> | <u>Dec. 10, 2002</u> | <u>Tiemann</u> | | | <u>Sept. 25, 2000</u> |
| | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ex- aminer Initial | Document No. | Date | Country | Class | class | Sub- Translation Yes/No |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|
| | <u>DE 101 05 785 A1</u> | <u>Aug. 8, 2002</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>DE 100 23 436 A1</u> | <u>Nov. 15, 2001</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>DE 100 04 359 A1</u> | <u>Aug. 9, 2001</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>DE 43 07 781 A1</u> | <u>Sept. 30, 1993</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>DE 33 30 067 A1</u> | <u>Nov. 29, 1984</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>DE 298 11 460 U1</u> | <u>Oct. 29, 1998</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>DE 296 17 029 U1</u> | <u>Jan. 9, 1997</u> | <u>Germany</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>WO 01/76980 A1</u> | <u>Oct. 18, 2001</u> | <u>International</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>JP 5-16991</u> | <u>Jan. 26, 1993</u> | <u>Japan</u> | | | <u>No</u> |
| | <u>WO 03/053736 A1</u> | <u>July 3, 2003</u> | <u>International</u> | | | <u>No</u> |

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| Ex- aminer Initial | Author | Date | Title | Textbook in Translation | Yes/No |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------|
| | <u>Robert Böck GmbH</u> | <u> </u> | <u>Fully Automatic Lock</u> <u>T-4</u> | <u>German Lashing</u> | <u>Yes</u> |
| | | | | | |

 Examiner

 Date Considered